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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

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To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

AS I have a ſingular favour to beg of you, I think it proper to preface my requeſt with ſome account of myſelf.

I AM at preſent one of the numerous fraternity of DISTRESSED GENTLEMEN; a diſconſolate being, daily contending betwixt pride and poverty; a mournful relict of miſpent youth; a walking dial, with two hands pointing to the loſt hours; and having been long ago tired with putting my fingers into empty pockets, am at laſt deſirous of employing them in ſoliciting the aſſiſtance and recommendation of the WORLD.

I was bred at a great public ſchool, not far from this metropolis, where I acquired a knowledge of the claſſics and the town, ſuperior to my years. From this ſchool I was tranſmitted to a renowned college in a celebrated univerſity, from whence my dull and phlegmatic cotemporaries have ſlid into the greateſt preferments in church and ſtate. They contented themſelves indeed with going on a jog trot in the common road of application and patience, while I galloped with ſpirit through ways leſs confined, till at laſt I found myſelf benighted in a maze of debts and diſtreſſes. However, as I continued to adorn my mind with the moſt elevated ſentiments of ancient and modern poetry, I was the moſt ſanguine of all mortals, never once doubting but that the time would ſhortly arrive, when I was to be loaded with fortune, and diſtinguiſhed by honours. I looked upon avarice as the meaneſt of vices, and therefore rooted it from my boſom. I conſidered friendſhip as the nobleſt of virtues, and therefore became the friend of everybody. Impudence I diſcarded, and called in modeſty and humility to be my counſellors. Thus generous, friendly, modeſt and humble, I was placed by my friends in the Inner Temple. But I quickly diſcovered that my acquired virtues, and uncommon knowledge, were ſo many impediments to the ſtudy of the law; a profeſſion too ſolid in itſelf to require any external advantages, and (except the great wig and ſerjeant's coiff) ſeeming abſolutely independent of all acquiſitions whatſoever. I therefore quitted it in time, and commenced fine gentleman. In this capacity I had the honour of ſipping my chocolate in a certain houſe, was choſen member of a certain club, and ſoon found that I wanted nothing but money to have paſſed my time as agreeably as the beſt of them; that is to ſay, by being

being always in good company, without the fatigue of good converſation; ever at a feaſt, without the vulgar call of appetite; conſtantly at play, without the leaſt ſport; hungering after politics, without the powers of digeſtion, and embarraſſed with acquaintance, without a ſingle friend. But wanting the one thing needful for all theſe enjoyments, and there being a war upon the continent, I quitted the fine gentleman for the ſoldier, and made a campaign in Flanders. My regimentals were highly pleaſing to me; and I had certainly ſucceeded to a ſtaff before the end of the war, could I have arrived at the leaſt ſmattering either of gunnery or fortification. I had read Cæſar's commentaries and Polybius, and fancied myſelf improved by them; but Bland's treatiſe of military exerciſe was what I could never comprehend. However, I loitered through the campaign without ignominy, and at my return home wiſely ſold my commiſſion.

The great and deciſive ſtep in life ſtill remained untried. The temple of Hymen, with all it's enchanting proſpects, was open to my view, and allured my attention. The groups of Cupids that ſeemed to flutter in the roof, together with the gaiety and ſatisfaction that appeared in every face, tempted me to enter; and amidſt a crowd of beauties, a young lady of a moſt ingenious countenance and ſlender make, ſoon captivated my choice. She was void of pride, notable, ſteady, enterprizing, and every way qualified for the ſtation of life in which fortune had placed her, which was that of a maid of honour to a foreign princeſs. Her name was mademoiſelle Neceſſité, daughter of a younger branch of the ancient family of that name in Gaſcoigny. She lent a favourable ear to my addreſſes; and indeed a ſtrong ſimilitude of features and circumſtances ſeemed to have deſtined us for one another.

Amidst

AMIDST the inexpreſſible joys of this union, I became the father of two lovely daughters, who were chriſtened by very genteel foreign names, ſignifying in Engliſh ASSURANCE and INVENTION. I exhauſted the ſmall remainder of my ſubſtance on the education of theſe daughters, not doubting but that they were given to me for the ſupport of my declining years. At the inſtigation of the eldeſt, I commenced author, and made the preſs groan with my productions in proſe and verſe. I ſighed for the revival of factions and parties, to have an opportunity of ſignalizing my pen in the ſervice of my country; and like the heroine of old, who encompaſſed a large teritory with a ſingle hide, I entertained hopes, from a well-timed halfpenny ballad, to new-hang my garret with the moſt elegant paper. But I ſoon found that I had nothing to eat but my own words, and that it was in vain for me to write, unleſs a ſcheme was found out to compel men to read: and indeed, were it not for the charity-ſchools, which have in ſome meaſure multiplied the literati in this country, the names of author and publiſher would long ſince have been obliterated.

YOU may eaſily perceive, ſir, that I am now in that claſs of life, which I can only diſtinguiſh by the title of a DISTRESSED GENTLEMAN. But however uncomfortable my ſituation may be, I am determined to give my exiſtence fair play, and to ſee it out to the laſt act. You need therefore be under no apprehenſions of my dying SUDDENLY: and to ſay the truth, I have ſo great a veneration for phyſicians and apothecaries, that I cannot think of taking the buſineſs out of their hands, by becoming my own executioner.

MY youngeſt daughter, who is really a moſt ingenious girl, has frequently ſolicited me to try a ſcheme of her's; which, after long and mature deliberation, I am enclined to think may be of great ſervice to my country, and of no ſmall benefit to myſelf and family.

I HAVE long remarked the number of SUDDEN DEATHS that abound in this iſland, and have ever lamented the diſgraceful methods that perſons of both ſexes in this metropolis are almoſt daily taking to get rid of their being. The diſfiguring piſtol, the ſlow ſtupefaction of laudanum, the ignominious rope, the uncertain garter, the vulgarity of the new river, and the fetid impurity of Roſomond's pond, muſt be extremely ſhocking to the delicacy of all genteel perſons, who are willing to die decently as well as ſuddenly. At once therefore to remedy theſe inconveniencies, I have contracted for a piece of ground near the Foundling hoſpital, and procured credit with a builder to erect convenient apartments for the reception of all ſuch of the nobility, gentry and others, as are tired of life. I have contrived a moſt effectual machine for the eaſy decapitation of ſuch as chuſe that noble and honourable exit; which no doubt muſt give great ſatisfaction to all perſons of quality, and thoſe who would imitate them. I have a commodious bath for diſappointed ladies, paved with marble, and fed by the cleareſt ſprings, where the patient may drown with the utmoſt privacy and elegance. I have piſtols for gameſters, which (inſtead of bullets or ſlugs) are charged with loaded dice; ſo that they may have the pleaſure of putting an end to their exiſtence by the very means which ſupported it. I have daggers and poiſon for diſtreſſed actors and actreſſes, and ſwords fixed obliquely in the floor with their points upwards, for the gentlemen of the army. For attorneys, tradeſmen and mechanics, who have no taſte for the genteeler exits, I have a long room, in which a range of halters are faſtened to a beam, with their nooſes ready tied. I have alſo